RibTools User Manual

Author: Davide Pasca
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Installation

You may need to perform a one-time install of the freely redistributable CRT libraries from Microsoft, downloadable here or from the **RibTools** binaries package at `Install\vcredist_x86.exe`.

Quick Start

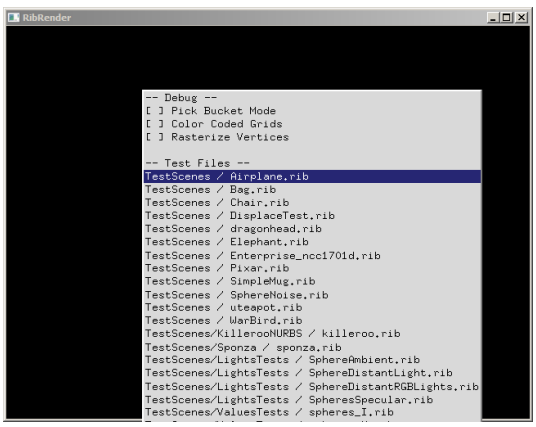
From the *RibTools* distribution directory, launch the file `MakeTests.bat`, wait for it to complete and enjoy some fine renderings generated in the `TestsOutput` directory.

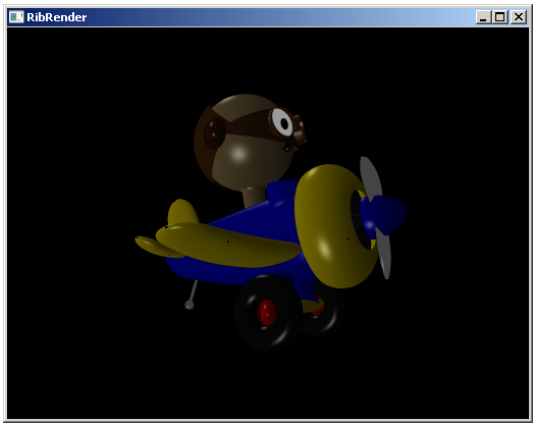
Three executables are currently distributed: *RibRenderToy*, *RibRender*, *RibRenderServer* and *RSLCompilerCmd*.

RibRenderToy

This is a minimally interactive application that will render any RIB file present in the `TestScenes` directory.

Launch the application, **right click** in the window to open a menu from which to choose a file to render.





Note that *RibRenderToy* always redirects the rendering to the application window, ignoring any target specified by the `Display` command in the RIB files.

RibRender

This command will render a scene described by a RIB file into an image file or in a window.

From a command line, type `RibRender -h` to get the following help:

```
==== RibRender v0.9 -- (Feb 16 2010 - 02:54:03) ====

RibRender <rib file> [options]

Options:
    -help | --help | -h             -- Show this help
    -server <address>:<port>        -- Specify an IP and port number for a render server
    -forcedlongdim <size in pixels> -- Force the largest dimension's rendering size in pixels
    -colorgrids                     -- Show grids in false colors (for debugging)

Examples:
    RibRender TestScenes/Airplane.rib
    RibRender TestScenes/Airplane.rib -server 192.168.1.107 -server 192.168.1.108:30000
    RibRender TestScenes/Airplane.rib -forcedlongdim 1024
```

Note: RIB scene description files usually specify the output format with an explicit `Display` command. Therefore, a RIB file may decide whether the output will be in the form of an image file (usually TIFF) or in a window for display. If no `Display` command is found, *RibRender* will automatically generate an RGBA TIFF image named `frame0001.tif`.

RibRenderServer

This command acts for a render server for any *RibRender* command that will accesses this application thought the machine's IP and selected port.

From a command line, type `RibRender -h` to get the following help:

```
==== RibRenderServer v0.9 -- (Feb 16 2010 - 02:54:00) ====

RibRenderServer [options]

Options:
    -help | --help | -h  -- Show this help
    -port <port>         -- Wait for connection at port <port>

Examples:
    RibRenderServer
    RibRenderServer -port 31111
```

Note: *RibRenderServer* gives an additional capability to distribute rendering but it is **not** necessary as *RibRender* is fully capable of rendering on its own.

RSLCompilerCmd

This command is included only for **internal testing purposes**. It compiles a .sl file into a RibRender .rrasm file type. Such operation is done internally by the renderer, and **the user does not normally need to run this** command explicitly.

General Usage

In order to run the *RibRender*, *RibRenderServer* and *RSLCompilerCmd* commands from the command line shell from any directory in the system, the `RIBTOOLS_DIR` environment variable must be set.

In DOS/Windows this is accomplished by doing:

SET RIBTOOLS_DIR=<Path>

Where `<Path>` is the pathname where the executables are, along with the `ribtools.ini` file (this file is used also to confirm that the directory is indeed RibTools' directory).

`SET` however is not permament. To set an environment variable that persists after a reboot in Windows XP and above, use the following instruction from Microsoft.